Amendments to the Drawing Figures:

The attached drawing sheet include proposed changes to FIG 1 and replaces the original sheet including FIG 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s), as well as consideration of the information disclosure statement.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-8 are amended for nonstatutory reasons, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A, and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for not showing certain features of claim 2, 13 and 16. In response, a replacement sheet including amended FIG 1 is enclosed. Applicant respectfully request approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes and withdrawal of the drawing objection. Further, the specification has been amended for conformance with the drawing changes.

In the Office Action, claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for an informality. Claim 16 is amended for non-statutory reasons, e.g., to correct the informality. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added. f Accordingly, claim 16 now complies with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 12-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 12-13 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form without including the features of the intervening claims as they are believed to be not necessary for patentability. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 12 be allowed. In addition, as claim 13 depends from independent claim 12, Applicant respectfully requests that claim 13 also be allowed.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-9 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,799,859 (Ida) and rejects claims 2, 10-11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 2001-066547 (Masahiro) taken with Ida. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 and 14-18 are patentable over Ida and Masahiro for at least the following reasons.

The rejected claims are patentable over Ida and Masahiro at least because those references, taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the elements recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 17 for example (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein the light redirection element has a first groove structure and the light guide has a second groove structure facing the first groove structure, and the first and second groove structures are arranged in a configuration operable to direct light from the first light source through the display panel with a first angular distribution and light from the second light source with a second angular distribution which is different from the first angular distribution.

Applicant respectfully traverses the allegation on page 4 of Office Action that the Ida device operates to "inherently direct light in first and second angular directions." As clearly shown in FIG 3 of Ida and recited throughout Ida, the Ida device provides uniform light, as shown by the parallel arrows output from the Ida device, thus teaching away from structures "arranged in a configuration operable to direct light ... through the display panel with a first angular distribution and ... a second angular distribution which is different from the first angular distribution," as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 17.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 17 are allowable. In addition, claims 2-11, 14-16 and 18 are allowable at least because they depend from independent claims 1 and 17, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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